

<b>Proposal Title</b>	<b>Improvement of rights protection and services for migrants and asylum seekers in Macedonia</b>
<b>Reserve Fund</b>	Europe Reserve Fund
<b>Amount Requested</b>	Requested: <b>USD 498,730</b> Approved: <b>EURO 250,000</b>
<b>Unforeseen Need (250 words)</b>	<p>There has been a rapid increase in refugees and migrants taking the 'eastern Mediterranean route' from Turkey to Greece. While capacities are limited due to long-term economic and political crisis, the number of refugees and migrants entering Macedonia<sup>[1]</sup> from Greece has already dramatically increased (approx. 500 daily). As the migration crisis escalates, capacities and means to respond accordingly will become scarce.</p> <p>Recently amended Law on Asylum fails to list specific provisions on the procedure how migrants exercise their rights in the 72 hours, thus creating confusion in interpretations by various actors. Capacities of the police, medical and social services providers to provide adequate services to increasing number of migrants having expressed intention to apply for asylum are threatened. There are limited numbers of CSOs engaged and their capacities are constrained.</p>
<b>Activities Proposed (500 words)</b>	<p><b>Humanitarian and legal aid for migrants and asylum seekers</b></p> <p>Local CSO LEGIS will be supported to provide humanitarian assistance (food and basic medical and hygiene packages) to migrants at south and north border check points. Their capacities and abilities to purchase, collect and distribute humanitarian aid will be strengthened. Storage space will be secured, long term coordinators engaged and relevant information will be available on multilingual web and social media pages.</p> <p>Legal assistance will be provided to migrants through one mobile team of lawyers and legal officers from MHC. The legal team will ensure access to legal aid in the first 72 hours from the entry in the country by provision of information, advices, guidance and drafting legal submissions. Court representation</p>

<sup>[1][1]</sup> By the end of 2014, the Western Balkan route had become the third most-used route into the EU for migrants and asylum seekers, according to Frontex.

will be secured if a migration case is taken in front of the domestic courts. Furthermore, MYLA will be supported to provide free legal aid to asylum seekers with additional number of lawyers to be engaged on demand. Monthly reports will be released based on the experience from the field while providing legal aid.

In order to secure improved services to migrants and asylum seekers training will be offered by MYLA and MHC respectively to local branches of the Ministry of Justice, police officers, medical teams, and social workers assisting the migrants.

**Policy and social advocacy**

Foundation Open Society – Macedonia (FOSM) and its partners will open up the space for social debate on migration issues by (1) advocacy activities for improving current policies and practices, including debates, policy documents and capacity building for policy actors; (2) anti-xenophobia campaign including media and web content, social actions at local level and partnership with media and journalists.

Advocacy activities led by FOSM will address the policy shortcomings underlined in international reports, especially focusing on: (1) adequate, in-time asylum procedure and court protection of asylum seekers; (2) adequate accompanies of minors; (3) enjoyment of health rights, freedom of movement, liberty and security and (4) termination of ill-treatment over migrants. MHC and MYLA will produce policy briefs and analyses to support the advocacy efforts and to serve as basis for informed debates on migration and asylum. In order to secure better understanding of the global policies, initiatives and international standards on refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, FOSM will organize training for policy actors in the country.

The anti-xenophobia campaign is aimed to sensitize public opinion about the position, needs and necessity for adequate treatment of migrants and asylum seekers. In addition to media and web content the campaign will include social actions focused on building communication bridges among migrants and local population. Media and journalists will be invited to join efforts with CSOs in the campaign. Regular briefings for media will be organized to ensure independent information flow and to communicate the advocacy efforts.

	<p>Journalists will be trained to advance reporting skills on migrations.</p> <p>Duration: August, 2015 - December, 2016</p>
<b>Summary for Board Reports (100 words)</b>	<p>The aim of the initiative is to contribute to improved rights protection and services delivery to migrants and asylum seekers while transiting Macedonia. Humanitarian (food and basic medical and hygiene packages) and legal assistance (information, advices, guidance and drafting legal submissions) will be provided by civic and state actors in line with international HR standards. FOSM and its partners will launch and facilitate social debate on migration issues by (1) advocacy activities for improving current policies and practices, including debates, policy documents and capacity building for policy actors; (2) anti-xenophobia campaign including media and web content, social actions at local level and partnership with media and journalists.</p>
<b>Collaborating Programs within OSF and essential partners or grantees</b>	<p><b>OSF Programs:</b> Open Society Initiative for Europe (OSIFE); Open Society European Policy Institute (OSEPI); Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI); and International Migration Initiative (IMI).</p> <p><b>FOSM partners and grantees:</b> LEGIS, Macedonian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights and Macedonian Young Lawyers Association.</p>
<b>Contributions expected from Collaborating Programs (250 words)</b>	<p>The initiative could serve as a basis to provide input in regional and global advocacy initiatives led by OSEPI, IMI and other OSF programs. Data gathered through the intervention will be available to the potential OSIFE project on cross-border monitoring and documentation. The initiative will be available and open for consultations with OSIFE grantees dealing with cross-border monitoring and documentation. Consultations will be conducted with OSF offices in Serbia and Hungary for exchanging experience in the process of developing anti-xenophobia campaign. Furthermore, advices and proposals for delivering capacity building activities will be sought from collaborating OSF programs working on migration issues.</p>
<b>Statement of who within OSF would guide the work</b>	<p><b>Foundation Open Society - Macedonia</b> is well positioned to lead the initiative. Fani Karanfilova-Panovska, Executive Director and FOSM Executive Board will guide the work; Slavica Indjevska, Program Director will secure: smooth management of the activities, effective communication and coordination, monitoring grants to partner organizations and effective utilization of funds. Consultations and information</p>

	sharing with OSIFE, NF in the WB; Open Society European Policy Institute (OSEPI); Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI), International Migration Initiative (IMI) will advance implementation, results and impact.
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<b>Allocator</b> <i>(See list on <a href="#">Reserve Funds KARL</a>)</i>	Name	Jordi Vaquer
	Date Approved	24 <sup>th</sup> July 2015
<b>Allocator Notes / Comments</b> <i>(To be completed by <u>allocator only</u>)</i>	<i>(Notes/Comments - Optional field)</i> - The Risks section is left blank, but there is an obvious risk that the route may change, for instance due to developments in Serbia, Hungary or elsewhere. This timely action plan needs to adapt to those changes on the ground.	
	<i>(Criteria checklist)</i> _ Is this an <u>unforeseen</u> opportunity or a genuinely new idea to advance core open society commitments? YES _ Is the need time-sensitive? YES _ Are we proposing to do something that others are not doing? YES _ Is the plan compelling? YES _ Does the planned activity take good advantage of OSF capacity? YES _ Is the team leading the work up to the task? YES	
<b>Urgency level for grant approval &amp; payments</b>	_Rapid Response YES	_ Rapid Response <i>(See procedure on <a href="#">KARL</a>)</i>
<b>If approved, where to allocate the budget?</b> <i>(If the budget is split between</i>	Amount	\$498,730
	Category of Work	Migration
	Division/Program Code	FOSM
	Entity <i>(i.e., FPOS, ZUG)</i>	
	Fund Class <i>(i.e., Lobbying/Non-Lobbying)</i>	Non-Lobbying

<i>multiple programs, please copy/paste</i>	Geography ( <i>of benefit</i> )	Macedonia
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